

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Property Name: Queenstown B&B (preferred) formerly Nationwide Insurance Agency

Inventory Number: QA-254

Address: 7109 Main Street, Queenstown, Maryland 21658

Owner: Shyam S. Pappu, P.O. Box 2012, Queenstown, Maryland 21658

Tax Parcel Number: P. 87

Tax Map Number: 51A

Project: MD 018:US 301 to Greenspring Road, Queen Anne's Co. Agency: SHA

Site visit by SHA Staff: X no ___ yes Name _____ Date _____

Eligibility recommended X

Eligibility not recommended _____

Criteria: X A ___ B X C ___ D

Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G ___ None

Is property located within a historic district? X no ___ yes Name of district _____

Is district listed? ___ no ___ yes

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: (provide name of Report) Project Review and Compliance Files

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)

The two-story, commercial dwelling with the cast-iron front located at 7109 Main Street (QA-254) was recorded on in the Maryland Historical Trust Inventory of Historic Properties in 1980. The cast-iron front, patented in 1887, was installed ca. 1888 after William McConner purchased the property. Historical records do not indicate whether the cast-iron front was installed on an older building or was part of a new building program. This cast-iron façade was identified as the only cast-iron façade in Queen Anne's County as a result of the Queen Anne's County Sites Survey (1979-1980). The building, therefore, possesses the quality of significance on the local level under Criterion C for its architectural design illustrating cast-iron ornamentation of the late nineteenth century. It also is associated with the late nineteenth-century commercial development of Queenstown (Criterion A). The two-story commercial building retains its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Additional resources identified on the property include a detached garage constructed ca. 1925 located behind the commercial building and a one-story telephone exchange constructed in 1940. In 1980, the telephone exchange was purchased by the then owner and linked to the east elevation 7109 Main Street through a recessed one-story addition. These spaces contain a kitchen, dining nook, and lounge area for the bed and breakfast inn that currently occupies the complex. The telephone exchange is a simple, one-story building that embodies the characteristics of its type and period of construction (Criterion C). It represents the increasing importance of the telephone as a means of communication during the mid twentieth century and the technology that required a separate building to operate the system in a small town setting. The ca. 1925 garage also is an example of its type and period of construction (Criterion C). It is a one-story, single-bay outbuilding that retains its original doors and windows. Intact garages from this era are increasingly rare because of the constant replacement of these types of structures. Both buildings retain integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

The boundary of the property is defined by the current parcel boundaries listed on tax map 51A, parcel 87. The parcel boundary is delineated by stone curbing along Main Street.

Prepared by: Katherine Grandine, Historian/Senior Project Manager, R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc.,
November 1999

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended X

Eligibility not recommended _____

Criteria: ___ A ___ B X C ___ D Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G ___ None

Comments: _____

[Signature]
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

[Signature]
Reviewer, NR program

12/17/99
Date

4/27/00
Date

PRESERVATION VISION 2000; THE MARYLAND PLAN STATEWIDE HISTORIC CONTEXTS

I. Geographic Region:

- ☒ Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
☐ Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
☐ Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
☐ Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

- ☐ Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
☐ Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
☒ Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
☒ Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present
☐ Unknown Period (☐ prehistoric ☐ historic)

III. Historic Period Themes:

- ☐ Agriculture
☒ Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
☐ Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
☐ Government/Law
☐ Military
☐ Religion
☐ Social/Educational/Cultural
☐ Transportation

IV. Resource Type:

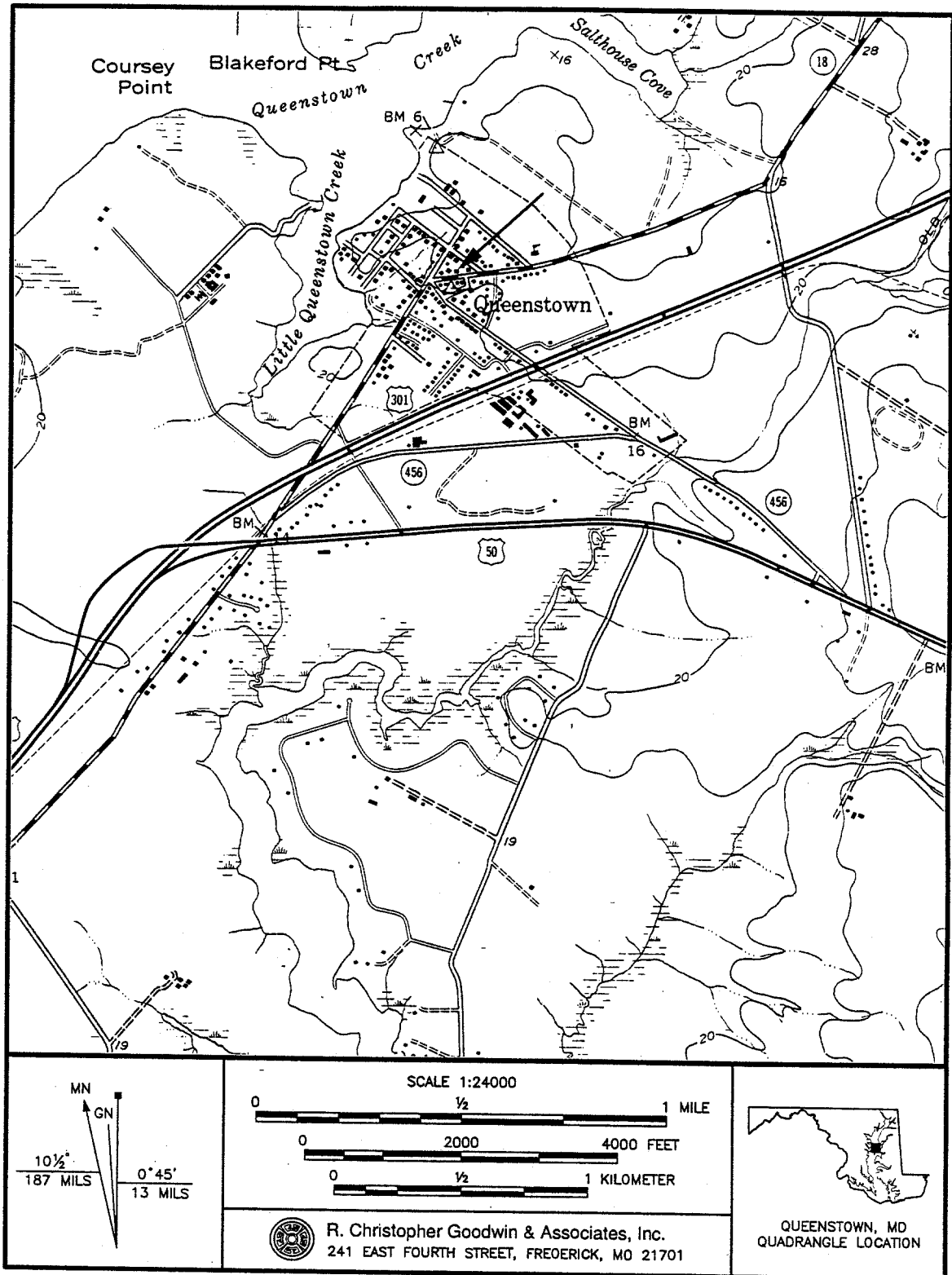
Category: Building

Historic Environment: Village

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Commercial; garage; telephone exchange

Known Design Source: Mesker Brothers, Front Builders, St. Louis, MO

MHT No. QA-254
Nationwide Insurance Company,
Queenstown B&B
Queenstown, Queen Anne's County
Queenstown Quadrangle Map



INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS

The same is the following for all photographs:

1. inventory #: QA-254
2. historic name: Nationwide Insurance Agency
3. location: Queenstown, Queen Anne's County
4. photographer: P. Giglio
4. date of photograph: November 1999
5. location of negative: MD SHPO

Photo

1. View northwest
2. Granite curbing, view northwest
3. View southwest
4. View southeast
5. Garage, view west



QA-254

Nationwide Insurance Agency

Queenstown, Queen Anne's County

P. Giglio

11/1999

MD SHPO

View northwest

1 of 5

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176



'98 1. 18

QA-254

Nationwide Insurance Agency

Queenstown, Queen Anne's Co.

P. Giglio

11/1999

MD SHPD

Granite curbing, view northwest

2 of 5



'98 1 17

QA-254

Nationwide Insurance Agency

Queenstown, Queen Anne's County

P. Giglio

11/1999

MD SHPO

View southwest

3 of 5



'98 1 17

QA-254

Nationwide Insurance Agency

Queenstown, Queen Anne's County

P. Giglio

11/1999

MD SHPU

view southeast

4 of 5

2000-11-15 10:00:00 AM



QA-254

Nationwide Insurance Co.

Queenstown, Queen Anne's Co.

P. Giglio

11/1999

MD SHPO

Garage, view west

5 of 5

QA-254

Nationwide Insurance Agency
Queenstown

circa 1888

The Nationwide Insurance Agency is the only building in Queen Anne's County with a cast-iron front. A plaque on the front of the building identifies the maker as Mesker Brothers of St. Louis, Missouri, one of the most successful makers of cast-iron store fronts in the late 19th century. A patent date of 1887 is also visible, and it seems probable that the cast iron front was ordered by William McConnor, who purchased the property in May 1888, and operated a furniture store and undertakers business from this location. In 1899, McConnor rented space to the newly formed Queenstown bank. In 1925 the building was sold out of the McConnor family, and since that time has served a variety of uses, including post office.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Nationwide Insurance Agency

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

North side of Md. Route 18

CITY, TOWN

Queenstown

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Queen Anne's

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☒ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Elwood R. Burgess, Jr.

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Box 47

CITY, TOWN

Queenstown

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21658

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Queen Anne's County Courthouse

Liber #: CWC 90

Folio #: 91

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland 21617

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

QA-254

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Nationwide Insurance Agency is located on the north side of Maryland Route 18 in Queenstown, approximately one block east of the town center. The insurance office is located in the front of the building on the first floor, while the rear of the first floor and all of the second floor are used as a residence.

The building is of frame construction, with a cast iron store front on the gable facing the street. At present, the cast iron extends up to the second floor eave. The upper gable is frame with decorated square-butt shingles, a boxed eave cornice, and a double casement window with a pointed lintel in the center.

An early photograph, dated 1919, shows that the cast iron front originally extended up as a false front to the peak of the gable eave. A heavy decorated cornice was carried across the gable facade. A rectangular panel above the cornice is visible in the photograph, and this may have carried the name of the first owner and the date of construction, as it does on the Benton Building (QA-318) in nearby Centreville.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.1 DESCRIPTION

Other details visible in the early photograph include a large canvas awning on the first floor that stretched across the sidewalk, and narrow horizontal siding on the west facade.

The cast iron front is the major distinguishing feature of the building. The first floor is divided into three bays, with large plate glass windows in the east and west bays and a recessed doorway in the center bay. Large decorated pilasters are located at each corner, and the bays are defined by narrow pilasters with matching decoration. Each pilaster displays a small metal plate with the following inscription:

MESKER BROS.

FRONT BUILDERS

ST. LOUIS, MO.

The plates on the two center pilasters also include a patent date, but this is no longer legible.

Below each plate glass window is a raised horizontal wood panel set in a wood frame. The doors are similarly treated, with a single glass window above a raised wood panel.

On the second floor, the bays are defined by four

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.2 DESCRIPTION

pairs of engaged columns flanking three large, one-over-one windows. The columns have stylized Corinthian capitals and plain bases. Below the bases are vertically paired panels decorated with floral motifs. The columns support a simple box cornice, which was once part of a much more elaborate cornice. When the upper section of the iron front was removed, a narrow pent roof was constructed across the gable immediately above the box cornice, and the upper gable was decorated with wood shingles, painted white.

The side and rear walls of the building are presently covered with unpainted wood shingle siding. The roof is tin, and the cornice consists of plain boxed eaves. The main building is three bays deep, with a one-bay addition on the rear. In all probability, this addition was originally a two-story porch that has been closed in. There is one door in the north bay of the east facade, with two-over-two windows in the center and south bays on the first floor and in all three bays on the second floor. On the west facade, the second floor fenestration is identical to the east facade, but on the first floor there are five bays. Doors are located in the second and forth

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.3 DESCRIPTION

bays from the south, six-over-six windows in the first and third bays, and a two-over-two window in the fifth bay. The rear of the house is covered by the enclosed porch.

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Nationwide Insurance Agency is the only building in Queen Anne's County with a cast iron front. A plaque on the front of the building identifies the manufacturer as Mesker Brothers of St. Louis, Missouri, one of the most successful makers of cast iron store fronts in the late 19th century. A patent date of 1887 is also visible, and it seems probable that the cast iron front was ordered by William McConnor, who purchased the property in May 1888, and operated a furniture store and undertakers business from this location. In 1899, McConnor rented space to the newly formed Queenstown Bank. In 1925 the building was sold out of the McConnor family and since then has changed hands a number of times, serving a variety of uses, including post office.

It is interesting to note that the Benton Building (QA-318) in Centreville has a decorative

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

QA-254

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Rhodes, Dr. Harry C. The Story of Queenstown Bank of Maryland:
1899-1962

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Orlando Ridout V, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Queen Anne's County Historical Society

DATE

10/17/78

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

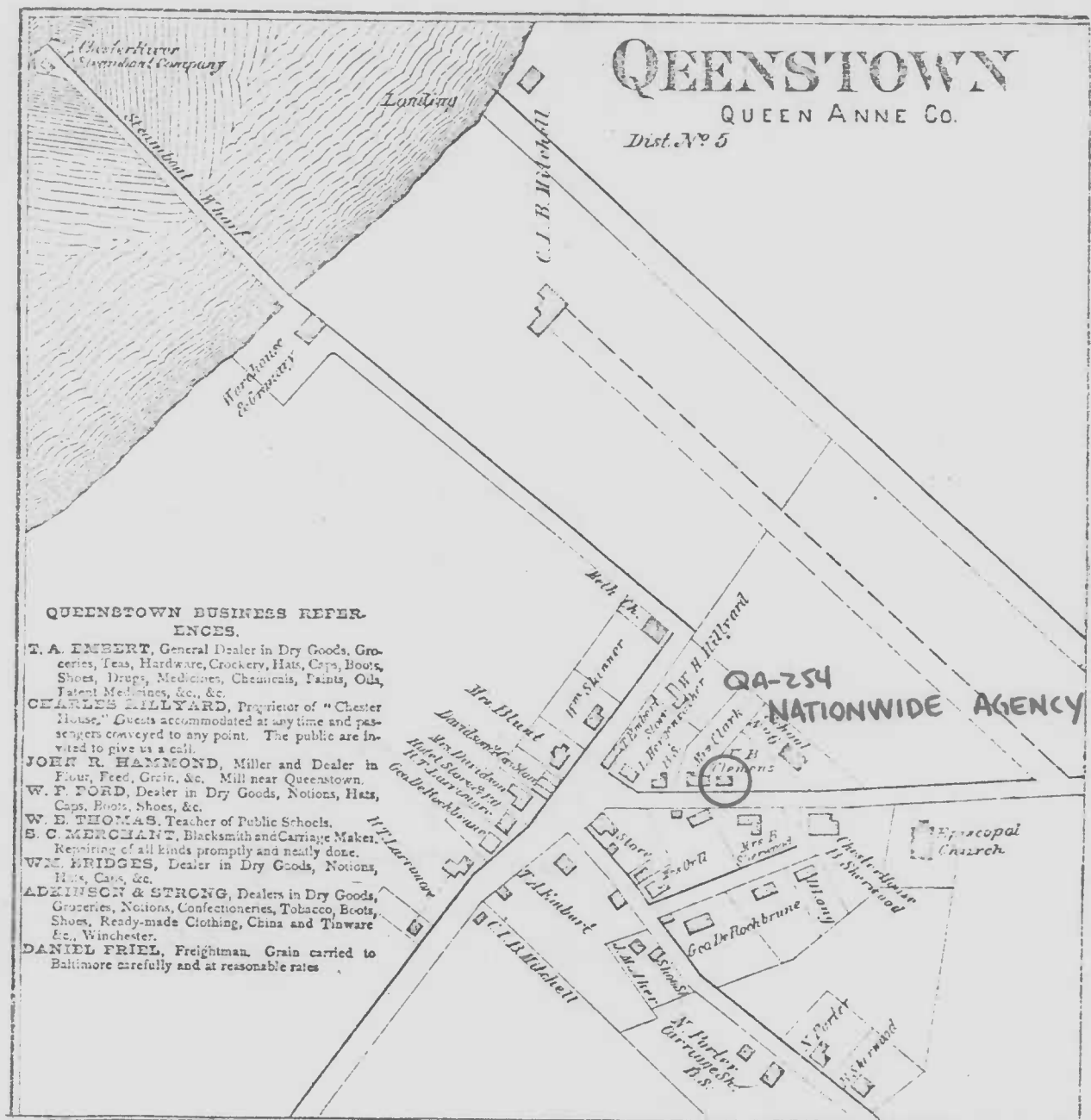
STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 267-1438



Map Source: An Illustrated Atlas of Kent and Queen Anne Counties, Maryland. Lake, Griffin and Stevenson, Philadelpha, 1877.

QA-254
Nationwide Insurance
Agency

Mary McCarthy
Spring/Summer 2003
Digital color photo on file at MHT





QA-254 Nationwide Office
Queenstown

OKV 1979



Centreville?

Nationwide Insurance Agency

Queens town

R.A.'s Co.

QA-254

7



DA-254

Nationwide Insurance Agency

Queensbury, ME

DAV 1978.



Q6-285

Nationwide Insurance Agency
Greentown, Md.

SLV 1778

5